

WHereas the *Portugal* Trade is very advantageous to this Nation, because it doth annually consume a great Quantity of our Manufacture, Fish, &c. And of late declines : because the Sugar, and other Commodities of that Country, are either so fallen in price, or grown so scarce, as that Merchants, trading thither, cannot procure wherein to have Returns, nor the People of that Country wherein to make satisfaction for the Goods they take, which hath occasioned the Setting up of Fabricks of their own, and the prohibiting of some of our Commodities ; to prevent the said Inconveniency, being that Country abounds with several sorts of good *Wine*, and is capable to afford great Quantities thereof, which are in a manner totally prohibited from being brought into this Kingdom, by the great Custom charged on them, of Twenty pounds Ten Shillings, per Tun.

It is humbly conceived, it may be the Interest of this Nation, That by Act of Parliament, the Custom of the said Wines be abated for these Reasons following.

I. The Abating of the said Custom would certainly introduce the Expence of the said Wine, and make them serve to supply the great want of Returns, at present experimented in that Trade, and consequently be a great means to increase the Consumption of our Manufactory in that Country.



II. The Importation of the said Wines may be of great Use in this present Conjunction, being *French* Wines are prohibited for Three Years, not only to supply the want of them for the present, as well in the Advance of his Majesties Customs, as employment of Shipping ; but may be of great Advantage after the Expiration of the said Prohibition, because it will be the Interest of this Nation to spend these Wines, which are purchased with our Manufacture, before those of *France*, which are purchased with our Money, and the introducing of them in this present Conjunction, may be a means to bring them into Use and Expence for ever hereafter.

III. Whereas the Prince of *Portugal* did about Twelve Months since, make a Sumptuary Law, to prevent the wearing of Foreign Cloath, Gold and Silver Lace, and some other Commodities, and did also Set up Fabricks of Bayes and Serges in that Country ; because they have not effects to ballance their Importation, which hath already proved of great prejudice to the said Trade, and may prove very fatal if pursued. It may be hoped, That by thus introducing the Expence of their Commodities, and the taking of them in Exchange for our Manufactures, they may be brought to neglect the Observation of the said Law, and the said Fabricks, because the Occasion of them will be thus taken away.

IV. It will advance His Majesties Revenue ; for the present extraordinary Custom is little less than a total Prohibition ; So that the said Wines yield at present very little to his Majesty ; whereas if the Custom be abated, they may yield a considerable Sum, that Country abounding in Variety of Small Wines as well as Strong, which would be imported in great quantities, if Incouragement were given.

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